

We claim:

1. A body tissue cutting device comprising:

5 a handle section and a first and second grasping arms  
extending from the handle section, said first and  
second grasping arms being resiliently mounted to the  
handle to allow closure of the grasping arms by hand,  
said first and second grasping arms each having a  
distal end with a grasping face, said grasping face on  
each grasping arm aligned to meet the grasping face of  
10 the other grasping arm upon closure of the grasping  
arms;

15 a wire disposed upon the grasping face of the first  
grasping arm so that it lies between the grasping face  
of the first grasping arm and the grasping face of the  
second grasping arm upon closure of the grasping arms,  
said wire being operably connected to a source of  
electrical power; said wire being secured to the  
distal end of the first grasping arm and extending  
proximally over the grasping face of the first  
20 grasping arm toward the proximal end of the first  
grasping arm.

2. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

25 a resilient surface on the grasping face of the first  
grasping arm, between the wire and the grasping face  
of the arm.

3. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

30 a sleeve covering the distal end of the first grasping  
arm, thereby forming a surface on the grasping face of  
the second grasping arm, said sleeve being separated  
from the distal end of the first grasping arm by a  
small fluid-filled gap.

4. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

a resilient sleeve covering the distal end of the second grasping arm, thereby forming a resilient surface on the grasping face of the second grasping arm.

5. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

a resilient surface on the grasping face of each of the first and second grasping arms.

6. The device of claim 1 further comprising:

a sleeve covering the distal end of the first grasping arm, thereby forming a surface on the grasping face of the first grasping arm, between the wire and the grasping face of the arm, said sleeve being distanced from the distal end by a small fluid-filled gap.

a resilient sleeve covering the distal end of the second grasping arm, thereby forming a resilient surface on the grasping face of the second grasping arm.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein the grasping arms comprise a pair of tweezers.

8. The device of claim 1 wherein the grasping arms comprise a forceps.

9. A medical device comprising:

a pair of tweezers characterized by a first arm and a second arm, each of said arm having a proximal end and distal end, said first arm having a first gripping face disposed on the distal end thereof, said second arm having second gripping face disposed on the distal end thereof, said gripping faces being defining surfaces generally perpendicular to a plane defined by the grasping arms, said surfaces being movable into

apposition with each other upon closing of the  
tweezers;

a first layer of resilient material disposed on the  
gripping face of the first arm;

5 a second layer of resilient material disposed on the  
gripping face of the second arm;

10 a wire disposed between of the first and second layers  
of resilient material so as to be trapped between the  
gripping faces of the first and second arm upon  
closing of the tweezers.

10. A medical device comprising:

15 a pair of forceps characterized by a first arm and a  
second arm, each of said arm having a proximal end and  
distal end, each of said arm being rotatably fixed to  
the other at a midpoint thereof, said first arm having  
a first gripping face disposed on the distal end  
thereof, said second arm having second gripping face  
disposed on the distal end thereof, said gripping  
faces being defining surfaces generally perpendicular  
20 to a plane defined by the grasping arms, said surfaces  
being movable into apposition with each other upon  
closing of the forceps;

a first layer of resilient material disposed on the  
gripping face of the first arm;

25 a second layer of resilient material disposed on the  
gripping face of the second arm;

30 a wire disposed between of the first and second layers  
of resilient material so as to be trapped between the  
gripping faces of the first and second arm upon  
closing of the forceps.

## 11. A medical device comprising:

- 5 a laparoscopic grasper characterized by a first arm and  
a second arm, each of said arm having a proximal end  
and distal end, each of said arm being rotatably  
relative to the other about a point near the distal  
end thereof, said arms being adapted to be inserted  
into the body and to be rotatably opened and closed  
upon each other within the body, said first arm having  
a first gripping face disposed on the distal end  
10 thereof, said second arm having second gripping face  
disposes on the distal end thereof, said gripping  
faces being defining surfaces generally perpendicular  
to a plane defined by the grasping arms, said surfaces  
being movable into apposition with each other upon  
closing of the graspers;
- 15 a first layer of resilient material disposed on the  
gripping face of the first arm;
- a second layer of resilient material disposed on the  
gripping face of the second arm;
- 20 a wire disposed between of the first and second layers  
of resilient material so as to be trapped between the  
gripping faces of the first and second arm upon  
closing of the graspers.